

On the races of the White-rumped Swift *Apus caffer*

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Slater (1924) recognized three races of *Apus caffer*—

- (1) nominate *caffer* (Lichtenstein, *Verz. Doubl.* p. 58, 1823: Kaffirland) south of the Zambezi;
- (2) *ansorgei* (W. Slater, *Bull. B.O.C.* XLII, p.63, 1922: Ndalla Tando, Angola) northern Angola and Portuguese Congo;
- (3) *streubelii* (Hartlaub, *Journ. Ornith.* 1861, p. 418: Keren, Ethiopia) Ethiopia, Sudan, Uganda and Kenya.

They were considered to differ in wing length and it has been suggested that *ansorgei* had a darker crown and a more bluish back (Chapin, 1939, Traylor, 1960). The accepted races were believed to be isolated by extensive areas in which the species did not occur.

The collecting of the last 40 years has shown that there is no major break in the distribution of the species and the much larger number of specimens now in museums permits a reconsideration of differences in wing length. The table gives the wing lengths collected by correspondence from the museums mentioned under "Acknowledgements", from Dr. W. Serle and the following publications:—

Chapin (1939), Finsch (1870), Hoesch & Niethammer (1940),
Ogilvie-Grant (1908), Stoneham (1926).

It will be seen from the table that there is no well marked break in wing length but only an increase in length from north to south. The increase takes a leap forward in the northern Transvaal but the overlap is still very great. It should be noted that wing lengths of males and females have been amalgamated. There is a tendency for females to have wings shorter by a millimetre or so than males in the same area. Half millimetres have been taken to the nearest millimetre above. The old French "inches" in Finsch (1870) have been converted at a rate of 27.08 mm. to the inch. The Berlin specimens of Hoesch and Niethammer (1940) have been remeasured by Herr Mauersberger whose results which I have used in the table give a wing at least 3% longer. This variability of measurement is important since these specimens were among those cited by Traylor (1960) when extending the range of *A. c. ansorgei* well down into South-West Africa. This variability of measurement also warrants a cautious taxonomic approach to populations which differ only slightly albeit significantly in average measurements. Following Amadon (1949) I conclude that *Apus caffer* should be treated binomially.

The type is in Berlin and has a wing length of 151 mm. It was collected at Galgenbosch near Uitenhage in the eastern Cape Province on 1st March, 1822.

The Uganda specimen with wing length of 147 mm. was collected on 7th June. The next largest Uganda bird has a wing length of 144 mm. Cumming (1952) has shown that most South African birds leave that country for the months of April to August. The suggestion is made that the unknown winter quarters of the southern populations include Uganda.

T A B L E

Wing Length—	Less than													More than													
	132	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	140	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	150	1	2	3	4	5	155	
Ethiopia			1	1	1					1	1																
Sudan			1	1	1		2			1																	
Uganda	1		1	2	1	4	2		6	1	1	2	1				1										
Kenya				2	2	3	2	2	4	2	4	2	1	2													
Tanganyika			1	1	1	1	1	1	5	2	3	2	1														
E. Congo	3		1	1	1	1		3	1					2													
Nigeria	1	1																									
Lower Congo			1				1		1	1	1	1	1														
Angola					2	1	1	2	1	2	2	2				2											
Nyasaland									1	1	2	1	1														
N. Rhodesia								1	1	1	3	1															
S. Rhodesia							1		1	1	2	2	2					2									
Mozambique							1		1	3	1	2	2				2										
S.W. Africa											1	1	1			1	1	1	2	1	1						
Transvaal							1		1	1	1	1				2	2	2	2	1	1						
Natal											2						6	3			1	1	2	3			
O.F.S. & Basutoland														2	2	2	6	3			1	2	3				
Cape Province										1			2	4	4	4	4	3	1	3	4	5	3	3	5	3	
TOTAL	5	1	4	7	8	10	6	9	24	15	13	20	10	11	14	12	18	11	6	13	5	7	6	4	5	3	

Minimum 124 mm. (Uganda); Maximum 158 mm.

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A new race of *Estrilda atricapilla* Verreaux

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Two races of *Estrilda atricapilla* have generally been recognized, nominate *atricapilla* ranging from Gabon and Cameroon to the lowlands of the eastern Congo and Kasai, and *graueri* ranging from the highlands of the eastern Congo to the Kenya highlands. However, Mackworth-Praed and Grant (1955, *Hdbk. Birds E. and N.E. Afr.*, 2 : 1028) extend *graueri* to the Congo lowlands, southwest to Kasai. Examination of series from the whole range of the species shows that there are actually two races now included in nominate *atricapilla*, birds from the eastern Congo lowlands agreeing with *atricapilla* in some characters and *graueri* in others. I propose to name this new race :

Estrilda atricapilla avakubi subsp. nov.

Type: adult ♂ from Avakubi, Ituri district, Congo, collected 8th December 1909 by James P. Chapin; collector's number 511. American Museum of Natural History number 162543.

Diagnosis: Differs from *atricapilla* by being generally paler, particularly on the cheeks and throat which are whitish rather than grey; barring on the back more broadly spaced, the black bars being more prominent because of the paler grey background. Differs from *graueri* in the much